

(d) the progress made with regard to action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The issue of setting up of a National Tourism Promotion Board was examined in detail by the consultation with the trade and industry associations. Taking all factors into consideration, it was felt that there is no balance of convenience in favour a constituting a "Board" for almost the same task which the Ministry is doing at present. As such, the proposal of setting up of a National Tourism Development Board has been dropped.

Decline in inflow of foreign tourists

†1455. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists have come down drastically as a result of Malegaon explosions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the percentage of decline in the number of tourists during the last six months particularly after explosions?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The foreign tourist arrivals to India during January to October, 2006 are estimated at 34.10 lakh, up from 30.15 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, showing a growth of 13.1% during the last six months, *i.e.* May-October, 2006, the foreign tourist arrivals are estimated at 18.58 lakh, up from 16.59 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, showing a growth of 12.0%. Month-wise estimated foreign tourist arrivals to India for the period January-October, 2006 are given in the following table:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Table: Foreign Tourist Arrivals to India (in lakh)

Month	2005	2006	% change over previous year
January	3.86	4.44	(+)15.1
February	3.70	4.07	(+)10.1
March	3.52	3.91	(+)11.0
April	2.48	3.10	(+)24.7
May	2.25	2.59	(+)14.7
June	2.47	2.73	(+)10.6
July	3.08	3.49	(+)13.3
August	2.74	3.03	(+)10.5
September	2.57	2.81	(+)9.3
October	3.48	3.94	(+)13.3
TOTAL: (Jan-Oct)	30.15	34.10	(+)13.1

Provision of basic facilities at historical places

1456. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals with Government to improve the conditions of historical places and the places of Archaeological importance and to provide basic amenities in those places upto international standards to attract more number of foreign tourists, to earn huge foreign exchange to the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals along with the financial allocation, State-wise?